Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00893 171506Z

42
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /062 W
---------- 087434
P R 171400Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4256
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0893

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS :PGOV,PFOR,US,XA
SUBJ :SA PRESS REPORTS EASUM TO BE REPLACED

1. THIS AFTERNOON'S ADITIONS OF ARGUS NEWSPAPERS,INCLUDING JOHANNESBURG STAR AND CAPE ARGUS,CARRY FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE STORY THAT 'THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, DR.HENRY KISSINGER, HAS DECIDED TO OUST HIS TOP AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL, MR. DONALD EASUM, WHO HAS SERVED AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA FOR LESS THAN A YEAR'.

2. STORY,WRITTEN BY ARGUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KEN OWEN, ALLEGES THAT MR.EASUM WILL BE REPLACED BY FOREIGN SERVICE DIRECTOR GENERAL NATHANIAL DAVIS. QUOTING'REALIABLE SOURCES', OWEN SAYS,'THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA, MR.ED REINHARDT(SIC), WILL BE APPOINTED CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.' ACCORDING TO OWEN, REINHARDT'S APPOINTMENT AS 'THE FIRST NEGRO TO SERVE AS AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE' WOULD BE 'COVER FOR THE OUSTING OF MR.EASUM.

3. OWEN IS AMBIGUOUS AS TO WHY PURPORTED CHANGE WOULD TAKE
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00893 171506Z

PLACE. HE REFERS TO CLAIMS BY 'PRO-AFRICAN CONGRESSMEN AND

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

LOBBYISTS' THAT DR.KISSINGER'DISLIKES THE 'MISSIONARY ZEAL' MR.EASUM BROUGHT TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.' HE GOES ON TO SAY'IDEA SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN HOLD AMONG BLACK CONGRESSMEN AND OTHERS THAT MR.EASUM HAS BEEN 'TOO LIBERAL' FOR DR.KISSINGER. HE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT 'OBSERVERS REGARD THIS ASSUMPTION AS QUESTIONABLE AND SOME SOURCES SAY IT MISINTERPRETS DR.KISSINGER'S IMPATIENCE WITH AFRICAN QUESTIONS.'

4. OWEN GOES ON TO CITE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MR.EASUM IS LIKELY TO BECOME AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA. ARTICLE IN STAR CONCLUDED ON THIS POINT, BUT ARGUS HAS ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH, PRESUMABLY ALSO WRITTEN BY OWEN STATING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO 'IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION' TO REPORT THAT 'AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA,MR.JOHN HURD, WAS TO BE REPLACED.

HURD

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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